

PROVIDENT IMPULSES

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Acquisitiveness is the most elementary of the human impulses that fall into this group. Apart from man, very few mammals make stores of food. Amongst some birds, as those of the crow tribe, there is a curious development of a passion for hoarding. But we have to descend to the insects to find illustrations of such a desire appropriate as urges human industry. There are species of ants which have enslaved other ants, and keep, as milch cows, the minute insects known as "aphides." *Constructiveness* is displayed in every class of the animal kingdom. Some minute unicellular protozoa (Foraminifera and Radiolaria) construct shells of marvellous delicacy and beauty: zoophytes have their corals; molluscs their shells; fish and birds make nests; the larva of the caddis-fly protects itself with a mantle of sand and fibre. Curiously enough, this impulse influences mammals but little, and in this class, apart from man, there are few animals that construct themselves a house. Its importance in human development needs no illustration. *Ingenuity* has taught man how to domesticate animals, has endowed him with the art of agriculture, and has enabled him to make tools and machines which, commencing with the stone axe, have culminated in the aeroplane. But man owes to this group of impulses his avarice, covetousness, and propensity to overreach his

fellows.

We shall see that the reproductive and provident instincts are in some measure antithetical: one gains strength as the other loses it. There is a curious illustration of this contrast in the loss of sex by those bees which are specially charged with the construction and management of the hive.